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USA Patent Application  
Erich RAUCH, et al  
METHOD AND APPARATUS  
FOR MELTING A METAL

Priority: German Patent Application  
102 56 513.9 filed December 4, 2002

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
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S I R:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Respectfully submitted herewith is a copy of a German Patent Office Search Report (2 pages) from the parallel German application 102 56 513.9 of which the present application claims priority, together with copies of its 4 cited references.

In the German Patent Office Search Report all of the references are listed in category A which means the documents (references) define the general background state of the art. Two of the references, namely WO 99/24194 and Patent Abstracts of Japan publication no. 62099423 are in the English language.

Respectfully also presented herewith are 3 references disclosed and discussed on pages 1-2 of the specification. One of the references, namely US Patent 5,411,240 is in the English language and WO 99/48637 has an English Abstract.

In the German Patent Office Search Report the words "Kat." means category, "Ermittelte Druckschriften/Erläuterungen" means

transmitted publications/explanations, "Abstr." means Abstract, "Betr. Ansprüche" means concerning claims, "IPC/Fundstellen" means IPC location found. This translation now points out in English relevant portions listed in the German Patent Office Search Report.


Three of the submitted references are in the English language and further a fourth reference has an English Abstract. Three of the references are discussed in the specification. Since this translation and the specification now point out in English the relevant portions of the non-English documents no further concise explanation should be required. Nevertheless please see Figs. and corresponding text of the references for further relevance.

A PTO-1449 form is presented listing all the 7 different references which are submitted herewith.

Translations of the foreign language references are not available to the undersigned.

This submission meets the requirements of 37 CFR §1.56, 1.97 and 1.98(a) and MPEP 609.

Respectfully submitted  
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